

P R O C E E D I N G S
OF THE
LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 28, 1970

Wild Life & Fisheries Bldg.
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Reporter: Arthur W. Bilotti



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.
Stenotypists

333 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1221
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130 • (504) 524-4787

P R O C E E D I N G S

....The Board Meeting of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m., on Tuesday, April 28, 1970, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Mr. J. G. Jones, Chairman, presiding.

THERE WERE PRESENT:

Mr. J. G. Jones, Chairman

Mr. H. C. Wright, Vice-Chairman

Mr. C. M. Hoffpauer

Mr. C. A. Guidry

Mr. Hobson Norris

Mr. J. L. Winfree

Mr. J. E. Kyle, Jr.

Mr. J. W. Thompson Absent

...ooo...



A G E N D A

MR. J. G. JONES

1. Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings on July 29, 1969; October 28, 1969; and November 13, 1969.

MR. ALLAN B. ENSMINGER

- ✓ 2. Consideration of the proposed Interstate Highway #410 crossing a portion of the ✓
✓ Salvador W.M.A. (6)
- ✓ 3. Consideration of bids received on the construction of the ✓
✓ Pointe au Chien W.M.A. Headquarter residence. (10)

DR. ST. AMANT

- ✓ 4. ✓ Sea Robin Pipeline Company request to increase amount in existing ✓
permit to 280,000 cubic yards from Hell Hole Bay and Portage Lake in ✓
Vermilion Parish, Louisiana. The original permit stated the total amount removed was not to exceed 160,000 cubic yards. (14)



5. W. T. Burton Industries, Inc., request for renewal of permit to dredge for clam and reef shell effective 5/1/70 in Sabine and Calcasieu Lakes. (17)

6. Establishment of the Brown Shrimp Season. (21)

DR. TED B. FORD

7. Request for freshwater introduction at Lower Belair, or White Ditch, Plaquemines Parish. (22)

8. Request for freshwater introduction at Lower Pointe-a-la-Hache, Plaquemines Parish. (10)

9. Consideration of a revision of Sister Lake's Oyster Management Program. (22)

10. 1970 Shell Planting Program. (92)

11. Resolution of the Commission instructing the Director to secure Florida Bass for transplanting in Louisiana. (100)

MR. JOE HERRING:

12. Kepler Lake Fish and Game Commission regulations. (102)



13. Caldwell Parish Wildlife Management Area
lease renewal. (106)
14. Proposal for land exchange on the
Russell Sage W.M.A. (108)
15. Acceptance of the completion of the
Bodcau W.M.A. Headquarter Building. (110)
16. Opening of commercial fishing on the
Spring Bayou. (111)
17. Other Business.

....ooo....

THE CHAIRMAN: The meeting will come
to order.

The first item of business is the
approval of the minutes of the previous meetings held
on July 29, October 28, and November 13, 1969.

You have heard the recommendation.
What is your pleasure?

MR. WINFREE: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GUIDRY: I second the motion, Mr.
Chairman.



THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion by Mr. Winfree and seconded by Mr. Guidry.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, before we continue with the agenda, I read last week in the press about a fishing trip that was made to Florida by Mike Cook, John Mushmock, and Hulie Camel.

It is quite obvious that they must have flown because Mr. Cook thought that the plane would be hijacked to Cuba, so apparently he felt that he ought to be one of the boys.

I'd like to contribute a dollar this morning to buy him some razor blades.

(Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: The second item of business on the agenda this morning concerns Mr. Ensminger.

MR. ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:



We have received some information from the Louisiana State Highway Department that a proposed portion of Interstate Highway I-410 would be routed through the northern portion of our Salvador Wildlife Management Area.

As you are aware, this piece of property was purchased by the Commission about two years ago for recreational purposes. It is a very excellent waterfowl marsh, and we feel that construction of an Interstate-highway system across this wildlife management area would defeat the purpose for which this land was purchased.

On this ground, I would like to recommend to the Commission that the Commission request that the Louisiana State Highway Department, in the planning for Interstate I-410, select a route for this interstate system which does not cross any portion of the Salvador Wildlife Management Area.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I move that this Commission adopt a resolution to the effect that



the State Highway Director be informed that we in no way want that Interstate I-410 to cross our refuge.

From looking at their long-range plans and plats, they would only have to re-route this highway five hundred feet to the north.

As I understand it, this project is ten years away, so if we don't start a file on it now, they are going to tear up all of our refuges.

I would like for that resolution to be prepared and directed to the Director of the Louisiana State Highway System.

Aside, I would like to suggest to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation that they talk to Mr. Ensminger and get this same information that we have. Perhaps they would like to join us in this resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion. Is there a second?

MR. KYLE: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion by Mr. Winfree and seconded by Mr. Kyle.

Is there any further discussion? Is



there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has been informed by the Louisiana State Highway Department that a portion of the Interstate I-410 is proposed to cross a segment of the Salvador Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, this property was purchased by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission for recreational purposes, and

WHEREAS, an interstate system crossing the area would be detrimental to the wildlife recreational purpose for which



the area was purchased,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission does hereby
request that the Louisiana State
Highway Department select a route
for this interstate system which
does not cross any portion of
the Salvador Wildlife Management
Area.

THE CHAIRMAN: Item number three, Mr.
Ensminger.

MR. ENSMINGER: The other item I have
for your consideration is the bid for the construction
of a combination resident and headquarters building
to be constructed on the Pointe au Chien Wildlife
Management Area in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes.

We have had detailed plans and speci-
fications prepared by the architectural firm of
Hackett and Bailey for the construction of this build-
ing and the Division of Administration has advertised
and received five competitive bids for this work.



The low bid was submitted by the Terrebonne Construction Company in the amount of \$70,700.00, and the high bid was \$86,500.00. After reviewing these bids, our architect informs us that he feels the low bid meets the specifications.

Therefore, I would like to recommend to the Commission for its consideration that the low bid be accepted and that the Attorney General's office be contacted for approval to spend the funds out of the special appropriation act that was passed last year for this purpose.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. KYLE: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NORRIS: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Kyle and seconded by Mr. Norris.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so



ordered. Thank you, Allan.

MR. ENSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Division of Administration has advertised and received competitive bids for the construction of a combination resident and headquarters building to be constructed on the Pointe au Chien Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, the Division of Administration received five competitive bids, and

WHEREAS, the low bid submitted by Terrebonne Construction Company in the amount of \$70,700.00, meets the specifications set forth by the architectural firm of Hackett and



Bailey, and

WHEREAS, funds for the construction of the headquarters was provided by a special appropriation Act #18 of the 1969 Legislature, and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General's office will be consulted regarding the expenditure of this amount from the appropriation act,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a low bid of \$70,700.00, submitted by Terrebonne Construction Company be approved and the Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents and correspondence pertaining to this matter,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Administration be requested to



issue a purchase order and contract for the construction of the building using funds from the special appropriation Act #18 for this purpose.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next items on the agenda for today will be presented by Dr. St. Amant.

Let us take up Items three and four first, Dr. St. Amant, then we can go to the establishment of the brown shrimp season.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

We have three items for your consideration today. The first one has to do with a request from the Sea Robin Pipeline Company for an amendment of its permit to dredge for fill material in Hell Hole Bay and Portage Lake.

Sea Robin Pipeline Company has a permit from us at our request to dredge for fill material to be used for backfill of a pipeline that was put across part of a Louisiana State Wildlife Refuge down



in the Vermillion Bay area.

The original permit called for 160,000 yards and apparently this was a miscalculation. They would like to continue to dredge in the area until the backfill is complete. They are requesting that we increase the amount of backfill material in the permit to allow them to complete this work.

I recommend that we do allow them to do this because it is in our interests to backfill this canal and protect the marsh area.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Mr. Ensminger, do you have anything to say on this?

MR. ENSMINGER: I would concur with Dr. St. Amant that they do need more backfill to bring it up to the level of the marsh area.

MR. WINFREE: Wasn't this done at our request, Dr. St. Amant, to meet our specifications?

DR. ST. AMANT: That is right, Mr. Winfree.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. KYLE: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.



THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Kyle.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to the Sea Robin Pipeline Company to dredge for fill material to be used for backfill in certain parts of a canal dredged across Louisiana State Wildlife Refuge in the amount of approximately 280,000 cubic yards instead of approximately 160,000 cubic yards as shown in the original permit.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

THE CHAIRMAN: Item number five, Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: The next item on the agenda has to do with a request from the W. T. Burton Industries, Inc., to renew their permit for the dredging of clam and reef shell in Sabine and Calcasieu Lakes.

If you will recall, last year this permit was issued on an annual basis and they must renew it each year by Commission action.

Since this request has come in, there has been a couple of items that perhaps you might want to consider.

One, there has been some opposition to renewing the permit in Calcasieu Lake. If it is renewed in Calcasieu Lake, it should have restrictive



clauses to protect the oyster reefs and oyster plan-
ning. In Sabine Lake the old permit along with some
of the Corps of Engineers permits restricted dredging
to a distance of 1000 feet to 1500 feet of the
shoreline.

Mr. Burton has located a shell deposit
within a distinct area along the shoreline that is
within this distance. There is a request pending
before the Corps of Engineers that we have to pass on
that would allow them to dredge in this area.

So in considering the renewal of the
permit, we might consider all of these items.

I would suggest that if we do allow the
dredging in the Sabine Lake area up to the shore,
that it be restricted to this particular site which
is shown on these charts and that we not allow
dredging along the entire shore in Sabine Lake.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. John Camp, who is an
attorney representing Mr. Burton, has informed me
that Mr. Burton has withdrawn his application for a
permit for dredging Calcasieu Lake.

MR. CAMP: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.



THE CHAIRMAN: The only dredging you desire to do is according to the drawings you have presented to us this morning, is that correct?

MR. CAMP: That is also correct, Mr. Chairman.

DR. ST. AMANT: In that event, I would recommend that we reissue a permit to the W. T. Burton Industries, Inc., to dredge for shell in Sabine Lake, that it have a restrictive clause allowing them to dredge in this site near the shore that they described, and that this plat be attached to the permit in order to describe the area.

MR. WINFREE: Question, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: Dr. St. Amant, what is the amount of severance paid on this shell?

DR. ST. AMANT: This shell is 12¢ a yard.

MR. WINFREE: Is that standard?

DR. ST. AMANT: It was in the original lease, yes, sir. It is what some people are paying; others are paying 15¢ on some of the options that



have been renewed.

It is within your prerogative to set the price, either 12¢ or 15¢ a yard.

MR. WINFREE: Well, I am going to suggest to Mr. Camp that in the future this company should review this severance and perhaps increase it upward. These clam shells are getting to be a thing of the past, and certainly next year, Mr. Camp, if your client desires to go further, I would suggest that you all look into the possibility of increasing your severance because I think this should be reviewed.

MR. CAMP: My client would be most happy to discuss this point with the Commission in some other year.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I so move.

MR. WRIGHT: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Winfree and seconded by Mr. Wright.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?



(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to W. T. Burton Industries, Inc., to renew their lease covering the right and privilege of taking and removing oyster shell deposits from the shell reefs in Sabine Lake, five miles^southeast of Port Arthur, Texas, in Cameron parish, Louisiana, but restricts the nearshore operation to cover in a specific area requested by W. T. Burton Industries as shown on a plat which will be attached to and become a part of the permit.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that
the Director be and he is hereby
authorized and empowered to sign
any and all documents in connection
therewith.

THE CHAIRMAN: Number six, Dr. St. Amant.

This next item on the agenda concerns
the establishment of the brown shrimp season and
there are a number of people here who I am sure want
to be heard.

So that this discussion may go in an
orderly manner, I am going to impose certain ground
rules to insure the fact that everybody who wants to
be heard will be heard. We don't want to limit you
in your discussion, but I must insist that you not be
repetitious in your remarks to the Commission, and
that you state your name and whom you represent so
that the gentleman who is recording this proceeding
may properly identify you in the record.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, may I
suggest that you make an inquiry by letting them



rise and thus find out how many people wish to speak and then you could place them on an agenda.

(Whereupon, a count was made of the people wishing to be heard.)

THE CHAIRMAN: We are going to start by letting Dr. St. Amant and his people make their technical presentation. Then we will start over in this end of the room (indicating) and just go around until everybody has been heard.

DR. ST. AMANT: Gentlemen, we are going to present the data that we collected this spring on shrimp conditions.

This has to do with the spring crop of brown shrimp. I might say, generally speaking, that the indications are that we are going to have another good year -- at least as good as last year, perhaps better.

The data on the environment, particularly the water temperatures, and the salinities are excellent. Unless some catastrophic change occurs within the next three or four weeks, we should get ample or continuing growth and survival.



The principal problem before the Commission is to determine on what date the Commission prefers to open the season. in order to offer the industry the opportunity to take this shrimp -- or the greatest number of people in the industry an opportunity to catch this shrimp.

By way of review, we have a number of charts -- I don't think we need to go through all of them -- but we can hit the high spots in order to save some time.

This first chart indicates shrimp production over the last ten or twelve years. The black line represents the amount of production of brown shrimp, which is what we are talking about this morning; the other line represents the production of white shrimp which comes later in the year.

You will notice that in the years '67, '68, and '69 these black lines have been higher than at any other time and well above a ten-year average.

Our production of spring shrimp or brown shrimp has been excellent. Last year our total production of shrimp, white and brown, was the second



highest in recent years.

We had about an equal amount of browns and whites produced last year. We expect, if our predictions and data are correct, that the amount of shrimp caught this spring will be somewhere in this area (indicating on chart).

I think we can skip this next chart -- it is repetitive. It shows the brown shrimp catch in Barataria Bay.

This chart has to do with the volume of larval shrimp moving into the estuaries. We start checking these shrimps in January and we continue to check on them through April and May.

When some of the original shrimp work was done by the federal laboratories, it was thought that the number of post larval shrimp that came in -- the young shrimp -- would be correlated with the final production.

After eight or ten years in Louisiana we found a discrepancy in this.

The key factors in shrimp production have to do mainly with the environmental barometers



and not too much with the post-larval production. This is true so long as you have a sufficient amount of these young shrimp coming in. For example, in '67, '68, and '69, we had bumper-years production of brown shrimp and you will notice that the volume of larval shrimp was only moderate. Whereas, in '64, '65, and '66, we had a high volume of larval shrimps coming in, but the production was not as good.

The difference in these years, even though we had a lot of young shrimp coming in, is that we had low water temperatures and perhaps low salinity which tends to cause mortalities.

Down in this group (indicating on chart) we had less shrimp moving in, but we had an optimum environmental barometers and the shrimp produced quite well.

Assuming you get a reasonable movement of shrimp into this area, I think this is the key to the production of shrimp.

To put it mildly, last year we had some debate about the opening of the shrimp season as to whether it should open early or late.



This will demonstrate what happened last year. These are the times when these larvals came in (indicating on chart). If you notice, in 1969 we had a high percentage of brown shrimp larvals moving in January and it tapered off to a lower level throughout the spring. However, this was a momentary peak and the bulk of the shrimp -- the volume of shrimp was down in there -- under this line (indicating on chart). In a more normal year, the larvals start to come in late January -- like here in 1970 -- and began to climb. The 1970 larvals are still going up in a much, much more normal curve.

This early movement of some brown shrimp last year caused us to have some large shrimp in the waters in late April or early May, which in conjunction with some white shrimp -- I thought we had a reasonable crop to catch if we could split the season. Some problems arose legally and, as far as the length of the season was concerned, it was impossible to split it. The season was finally set at the latest date in order to take care of this late crop.

It proved to be a wise decision. We



had production last year that was as good as you have ever had. We might note that in 1970 we don't have this problem -- we don't have this big brown shrimp available and we do have some white, but not as many nor as large as normally.

This chart is the thing that should interest everybody in the shrimp business.

This represents the density of shrimp or the number of shrimp caught per unit of effort. It is directly indicative of the crop on the ground. In 1970 -- you will notice this black line (indicating on chart) -- we are peaking out somewhere over 230 or 240 shrimp caught per sample, which by contrast to 1964 we were only catching about 20 shrimp, which was a bad year.

In 1969 -- this line here -- we are about even with 1969, and perhaps higher. We don't know yet whether this will continue to up, but even if it levels off at this point, we could assume that we could catch about as much shrimp as we caught last year, which was a good crop.



The growth rate and the average size of the shrimp at this time is not as far along as some of the faster-growing years. It is about the same as it was last year.

I think you should keep in mind two things. The growth is dependant upon water temperatures and if water temperatures get real high and stay high, this could tend to steepen up. Another thing that tends to keep the curve down is the amount of recruitment. If we keep getting a lot of young ones moving in, the smaller size of these young shrimp will tend to lower the average size of the population, and we will not be able to control them.

The water temperatures in 1970 follow about normal -- in the middle -- there have been other years when it has been warmer and some years when it has been cold.

Here is another chart showing that the average size of 1970 is about the same as the 1969 at the same period in time.

Salinities are good and high in the lower bay and in the upper bay, which is the most



important part for getting additional nursing grounds. This line here in '70, and it compares well with '69, is actually higher than it was in 1969 at the same time.

This is last year's chart (indicating), showing that on this date we had something like seventeen per cent of the total population that were catchable shrimp as opposed to around eighty-five per cent in this major population. This was the population that last year we were trying to pick up.

This year, this doesn't appear -- we have big gaps in here. This is represented mainly by some white shrimp. The browns' populations -- back in here (indicating on chart) -- we only have one and a half per cent of the large shrimp available at this time.

Our projections indicate that we are not going to have too many shrimps available of a marketable size until sometime after the 15th or 18th of May, and probably not a great amount of them until the 25th. Here are comparative charts showing that there is nothing available in the early part of May.



They began to become marketable in this area.

The problem that exists is that there are some areas that have some larger shrimp right now in the lower bays. There are some people in the industry who recognize this fact and argue that perhaps we ought to try and catch these shrimp, or at least as the larger ones move down into the embayment. There are others who would prefer to try and wait and catch the shrimp at the latest date.

I would suggest that we not open this season any earlier than the 18th of May. Beyond the 18th, I think it is up to the Commission to make the decision. They can pick the 18th, or the 25th or a later date, if they so desire.

We have some people here today who would like to be heard, and perhaps you would want to hear their personal views on the opening of the season.

MR. WINFREE: A question, Mr. Chairman.

DR. ST. AMANT: Excuse me, Mr. Winfree, I forgot that I have some exhibits I want to show the Commission.

These shrimps were caught about April 20th



when we did the work on the charts. They will grow in a week's time almost an inch.

This chart shows the size ranges that occur in the population at the present time. Now these large ones make up only one-tenth of a per cent. The major portion of the population is in the smaller-size shrimp. There will be some areas in the embayment where these larger shrimps may make up the bulk of the population.

These bottom four shrimps will be easily fishable by the 15th of May.

MR. WINFREE: Dr. St. Amant, what is the ideal water temperature for shrimp growth?

DR. ST. AMANT: Shrimp start to grow rapidly once the water temperatures reach 20 degrees centigrade, or 68 degrees Fahrenheit. They grow extremely rapidly between 72 degrees and 78 degrees, and we have water temperatures in this range right now. Dr. Ford may correct me, but last week the shrimp were growing at the rate of two millimeters a day, which means that in twelve days they will grow one inch.



MR. WINFREE: Well, you mentioned in your presentation that unless something catastrophic happens, the ideal time for this season would be in the middle of May or the later part of May.

In the event we have some hot weather in the next two or three weeks, it is a possibility that these shrimp will increase their size, isn't that correct?

DR. ST. AMANT: Dr. Ford, is two millimeters correct?

DR. FORD: Yes, sir.

DR. ST. AMANT: Well, what you can figure is that if the temperature remains as high as it or continues to increase, then we can expect them to grow at this rate. Therefore, in twelve days, they will grow one inch; in twenty-five days, they will grow two inches, which would be very rapid.

MR. WINFREE: Then that would increase your percentage -- say, four per cent upward?

DR. ST. AMANT: It would up it to about 30 or 35 per cent, this is my guess.

MR. WINFREE: Now the ideal catch would



be in what per cent category?

DR. ST. AMANT: I don't think that can be determined. Everybody would like to have 100 per cent of the crop marketable, but this is not possible in a dynamic population where you have young shrimp moving in all the time. If the young shrimp would stop moving in, then the size of the population would increase rather rapidly. But by the young shrimp continually moving into the area -- into the population, then the median point tends to remain constant.

It has always been a fact that the bigger the shrimp-production year, the smaller the average size of the shrimp. These are uncontrollable barometers and I don't know what we can do about it. What we try to do is to get to a position where at least forty per cent, maybe fifty per cent, if we can get it that high, is below 100 count and then open the season. If it is prolonged much after this, the shrimp will tend to move offshore.

MR. WINFREE: Thank you, Dr. St. Amant.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you,



Dr. St. Amant.

We will start on this side of the room, and those who want to be heard can be heard.

MR. SEVIN: My name is George Sevin and I am a member of the Louisiana Coastal Shrimp Association.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will you also state where you are from.

MR. SEVIN: I am from Chauvin, in Terrebonne Parish. I do not agree with Dr. St. Amant on the growth of the shrimp when the temperature of the water is warm.

It was two or three days ago when I had a friend of mine take the temperature of the water. It was around 78 degrees. Dr. St. Amant said that it takes twelve days after a certain time for a shrimp to get big -- I don't believe that. On April 22nd, the day we had the meeting at Grand Terre, we went and sampled in some bays. We went back yesterday, that is seven days after the sampling, and we went back this morning. The shrimp there grew three times as large as they had been on the 22nd.



I want to say that if we open our season later than the 15th, we will lose a lot of our brown shrimp. They will go into open lakes and outside into the Gulf.

I just want to say to the members of the Commission that I hope we don't have the same trouble that we had last year about this.

We want to work with the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and we want to work with the canners. We don't want to destroy our industry, but it seems like the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission doesn't want to work with our organization. It is just some other organization that they want to work with.

We don't want to destroy the shrimp if the shrimp are too small out there. If the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission sets a date to go and catch the shrimps, and we think the shrimps are too small, we will fight the same way -- not to open the season. That is the point that we want to get across.

We think the season should open on the date -- like the second Monday in May and close at



the end of June, not later than July because we are killing our crop of white shrimp. We want two seasons, not just one season. Last year there were a lot of people who said we had a tremendous amount of white shrimp. When -- around October. Yes, they had some white shrimp around Cameron because they weren't trawling in those oyster bays. But the places over here like Terrebonne and Lafourche, where the shrimp was really trawled hard, we didn't have much white shrimp, we had to wait late. It was around the end of September or October before we could catch that shrimp.

This is what I want to say: if we go later than the 15th of May, we will be in trouble this year because the full moon is on the 20th, and that shrimp will be going out of there around the 15th or the 18th or the 20th. If we don't catch that shrimp, we will be in a hell of a fix. That is all I have to say. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Next, please.
State your name and where you are from.

MR. VALANCE: I am Jack Valance and I



am from Westwego. I represent the fishermen from Westwego.

We had a meeting and we voted upon Dr. St. Amant's recommendation. We would like to open the season on the 18th of May or later, if it is necessary.

Secondly, we would like to see the season remain open around Breton Island, Bal Dore Reef, and Bird Island for the simple reason that when the season closes, the shrimp are big enough for us to sell around here. They range from around 18 to 30 to the pound -- with the heads on. I am sure that everybody in this building would like to have shrimp in that size at that time of the year. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Next, please.

MR. MILLERO: I am Walter Millero and I am a Police Juror from St. Bernard. I am from the lower part where most of our fishermen come from.

Last year we met on the same subject and we had the season open on May 25th.

As all of you gentlemen know, it was one of our most productive years and everybody that went



fishing made money. The shrimp were of value. For the small shrimp that you catch, you get \$20 and \$25 a barrel. The fisherman has to catch an awful lot of them to make any money. Last year, gentlemen, we had a very productive year. The shrimp were large and we had a good August season, too. It gave the shrimp larval a chance to come in and when the August season opened, it was very productive.

I would hope that we go along in the same direction that we went last year and again open this year on May 25th.

I met with our Senator from St. Bernard and he also wants to convey this message to you. He is in full agreement for a May 25th opening.

I want to thank you, gentlemen, for listening to me and I appreciate it. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Next, please.

MR. LEBOEUF: My name is Randolph LeBoeuf, and I represent the United Fishing Association in Terrebonne Parish.

Gentlemen of the Commission, if you remember, last year the first crop of Brazilian



shrimp went out to the Gulf.

A Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission agent confiscated I don't know how many barrels which you auctioned off at \$10 a barrel. These people claim the shrimp were small -- \$10 a barrel. I have receipts which show these people got \$50.00 a barrel for that shrimp.

When the season opened, they didn't but give us \$25 and \$30 a barrel for the second crop of Brazilian shrimp. We want to be able this year to catch that first crop of shrimp because they are bigger -- they are more fully matured than the smaller crop.

Last year the shrimp that was brought in from the Gulf, where it had been confiscated, was actually larger than the shrimp caught when the season opened. That shrimp migrates with the cycle of the moon. Biologists go by statistics, but the moon controls the tides. You will notice that five days before the full moon the shrimp will start migrating out into the Gulf.

If that season is opened later than the



15th, we are going to lose part of that crop going out.

Before it closed last year on June 30th, we had legislation passed at the fiscal session that these people in Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Cameron Parishes, if they have good shrimp after June 30th, all they have to do is notify the Commission. They can have samples taken and the season can be extended, and they can be allowed to catch that big shrimp.

So, we don't have to have a closing on the 30th of June, if the shrimp are good. Let them catch all the shrimp they want.

I was wondering about the problem of enforcing the opening of a season this year because you have two statutes that were declared unconstitutional. The 17th Jury District Code has no boundary lines on inside and outside waters. So how are you going to determine whether it is inside or outside waters controlling the opening date of a season?

Thank you, gentlemen.

DR. ST. AMANT: Gentlemen of the
Commission:



I would like to make one point before we continue with respect to this last statement.

When the shrimp season is set late, it will produce the maximum amount of shrimp to be caught. There are always shrimp that tend to move out ahead.

Now, we have a peculiarity of the law. If the shrimp move offshore before the season opens, they are subject to a size count. We have had problems in the past where some of the early part of the brown crop tends to move offshore, and while it is legal to trawl outside if they catch these shrimps and they do not meet the size requirements, they are technically illegal since the shrimp are moving offshore.

You can argue that if you wait another week or two that they will meet the count size as by that time the season will be open. But then you also have to realize that the trawler doesn't catch differentially; he catches whatever is in the water.

There is a problem in the technicality of the law that we have not been able to get around



to because we do have a shrimp size when that season is closing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. St. Amant.

I want to ask the Commission's attorney, Mr. Peter Duffy, to come up, please.

Mr. Duffy, would you clarify for us the authority that the Commission has in regards to establishing the season, and whether or not we can enforce it.

MR. DUFFY: There have been this past year a couple of unfavorable decisions rendered by the District Court in Terrebonne. Actually, three of the judge declared unconstitutional certain statutes that had set up inside and outside waters and also had determined when these shrimp can be taken in inside waters.

From these decisions -- these were criminal cases and were prosecutions under our Wild Life laws -- the State of Louisiana has made an appeal. The effect of these appeals is to suspend the affect of these decisions pending a determination by our Supreme Court.



So legally speaking, the laws will be enforced during the shrimping season this year. They are presumed constitutional and they will be enforced as constitutional until our Supreme Court tells us that there is no such thing as inside or outside waters.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Duffy.

Next, please.

MR. SERVIN: My name is Cyrus Servin and I am from Terrebonne Parish. I am president of the Coastal parish Shrimp Association.

Gentlemen, I would like to make one thing clear. We are for conservation as much, or maybe more, as anyone in this room.

But anytime that you open a season too late, especially a spring season, what you will have is not just production as these charts are stating, but you will have destruction.

In 1967, these charts show how many shrimps were caught and sold, but these charts do not show how many shrimps were caught and had to be thrown back into the water because they could not be



processed. There had been too many caught at one time.

According to Dr. St. Amant's statement, at Grand Terre Island, he believes this year will be just as good as 1967. In 1967, it opened on the 15th

So I believe we should not go any later than the 15th because the shrimp we catch right here in these lakes would then have to be thrown back into the lake. This is not conservation; it is destruction. We don't want to see that happen this year.

What I would like for these charts to show is the whole thing: to show how many shrimps were caught and how many could not be processed and had to be thrown back in the water. Then we would get a true picture of our fishing industry.

I have been talking to Dr. St. Amant and Dr. Ford since last year, but I don't think we are communicating with each other. I respect Dr. St. Amant's opinions and I respect his data, but the thing is, if a biologist would come with a fisherman -- not for just one day, but go trawling for the whole season with a fisherman -- and see how the



shrimps react under certain conditions, I think maybe they would bring a different picture over here (indicating):

Some days you can shrimp with a small net and you will not catch them with your big trawlers. Other days you will go out trawling and you will not catch them with your small net, but you will catch them with your big net. Now, I don't know why this is so, but it is so.

If the biologists would cooperate with us as we want to cooperate with them, I think this Commission would have a better picture of the whole deal. Like I stated a while ago, we are not communicating with each other, we are talking. We are not communicating.

I think that what it is is that the fishermen have the experience, the biologists have the experience and each of us thinks the other is wrong. I admit that. So I think that if we would work together, maybe we could prove to each other which one was wrong. I mean work together, not just for one day, but work all during the shrimping season.



We should work together and then we would get a clear picture of the whole situation.

Another thing I'd like to speak about today is that if you open one parish or two parishes, some people say that it wouldn't be good. Last year one section was opened in the east and it wasn't opened in our section. We didn't go trawling in that area. Maybe some fishermen did, but the majority didn't go. If fishermen trawl one area, that is the area they will trawl. Most of them will not migrate from one parish to the next. Most of your fishermen will trawl in the area he is used to trawling in. The reason is that he knows how the tides work and he knows the bottom. He knows where to trawl and at what time to go trawling.

I want to state to Dr. St. Amant that if a fisherman who is a good fisherman wouldn't know the habits of the shrimps and if he wouldn't know how the shrimps would work, gentlemen, he couldn't make a living trawling. I will guarantee you that.

You take a man who has no experience and give him a trawler, the same kind of trawler that any



good fisherman has, and let him go in those lakes. Let's see which one is going to catch the most shrimp.

We will have to work together. We are willing to work together with the biologists.

Now, Mr. Atkins, came to me and said he will come to my house on Thursday and we will go together and test. But I wouldn't like to go just Thursday, I would like to continue on to the point where maybe we can explain our problem. Then perhaps somebody could understand what our problems are. We are not saying they are 100 per cent wrong, but we aren't 100 per cent wrong either.

These boards show that last year we missed 17 per cent of the shrimp in the open lake that we could have caught if it had opened on the 5th, instead of the 25th. Gentlemen, there is no way to say what percentage of shrimp we lost. The only way you could say how many shrimp you would have lost is if you would have caught them.

If you have some stations that you are testing in, you can't determine the amount of shrimp in the whole area. It is the same thing as you can't



tell how much you will get from a cow until you milk it, and I believe that goes for our open lakes, too.

Thank you.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman!

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Servin has an exhibit he showed me this morning. I wonder, Mr. Servin, if you would explain that shrimp kit that you have there.

MR. SERVIN: The shrimps in this kit were caught this morning by my son, and last Friday the shrimps in that area were not big enough to be caught.

THE CHAIRMAN: Bring them over here.

(Whereupon, Mr. Servin presented the shrimps to the Chairman, Mr. Jones.)

THE CHAIRMAN: All big ones.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, boy, and I thought these duck hunters were tough!

(Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Next, please.

MR. BOWMAN: My name is Jack Bowman and



I am President of the American Shrimp Cannery Association.

As President of the American Shrimp Cannery Association and on behalf of its member firms representing practically all of the shrimp cannery in the gulf area, I would first like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Commission for your continuing efforts directed toward the sound management and utilization of the shrimp resources of our State.

To Dr. St. Amant, Dr. Ford, and to the many other employees of the Commission, we say to you, thanks for a job well done.

In 1969, Louisiana enjoyed a record catch in terms of dollar value and the best tonnage in a quarter of a century. This was a result of the application of sound conservation based on proper interpretation of the scientific data collected.

We were most encouraged to learn last week at Grand Terre that the outlook for another good spring shrimp season is rather favorable. We were further pleased to learn that a favorable combination



of weather conditions, temperatures and salinity bore indications of the crop maturing to an acceptable commercial stage after May 16th.

We wholeheartedly agree with Dr. St. Amant's recommendation that the season be opened after May 16th. We feel that this will achieve the largest possible catch and benefit the greatest number of people in our industry.

Speaking on behalf of the majority of our Board of Directors, if there would be a preference, it would be for the date of Monday the 18th as an opening date.

In the past, the Commission has always at your regular April meeting set both the opening date and the closing date for the spring shrimp season. We recommend for your consideration that this year you only establish the opening date and that the closing date of this 1970 spring shrimp season not be set until your regularly scheduled in June. This would give you the benefit of nearly two additional months of study by your staff before it became necessary to set a closing date.



If this recommendation sounds new and unusual, we must point out that the revised statute under which we are now governed accords to the Commission the greatest possible flexibility in sound, scientific crop management, and our recommendation simply follows what we believe to have been the intent of the legislature.

We hope that due to good conservation policies and close cooperation between all segments of the Shrimp Industry and the sportsmen, we will have another excellent production in 1970.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bowman.
The next speaker, please.

MR. KERNER: My name is Leo Kerner and I am State Chairman of the Fishermen and Trappers for Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.

To the Members of this Commission, I would like to say that we are in favor of either the 18th or the 25th, it doesn't make any difference which, but we do want sixty days for the length of the season.



I heard this gentleman say that he doesn't want you to put a closing date, but I have always said that we need a law that states that the small fishermen be protected.

If you have a meeting in June and you close the season, do you think those boys can live with thirty or forty days of shrimping? Everybody else in the state will continue -- the large boats will continue, the factories will continue, but the little skiff -- a good one costs about \$5,000.00 today -- you are telling him that he can start trawling, but not when to end trawling. We have to have sixty days.

Last year you all promised us -- and I was one of them fighting for the 25th -- that we would get sixty days. If you remember, it went about fifty-three days. We lost seven days and just about a few days after that those boats right along the shore caught these Brazilian shrimp as the shrimp were leaving.

Do you know that the weather conditions in Louisiana send more shrimp out to sea than all



the trawls in Louisiana can catch.

I am sure that Dr. St. Amant will tell you that the weather destroys more shrimp than the trawls.

What we need in Louisiana is a season that will protect all segments. We want everybody to make a living, but those small boats need sixty days.

So I ask you, gentlemen of this Commission, that if you set it on the 18th, let the season go to July 18th; and if you set it on the 25th, let it go to the July 25th, or we will have a bill in the legislature to set a definite date as we did a few years ago.

We went along with this new bill with the understanding that regardless of the date you set for the start of the season, you would give those small boats sixty days.

I hope you will see fit to do this.

Thank you.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question.



Would you clarify for me this statute relative to the closing of the shrimp season.

This gentleman stated that the season lasted fifty-three days last season, and I was under the impression that it was a sixty-day season. Can anyone enlighten me on that?

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. St. Amant!

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Winfree, the new statute says that they will have not less than fifty days nor more than sixty days. The reason for this is in order to get some flexibility and still try to protect the white shrimp season -- which a great many people want. You have heard some of that this morning.

You run into a loggerhead here if you wait as late as you might wait to get the best benefit from the browns. You can overrun into a white season.

We amended the law to read at least fifty days and it also gave us the flexibility to open certain areas which we did later on.

The law does give the Commission at this time the flexibility to open a portion of the



coast, if you would like it. We could open one parish. We could open one part of a parish, if we don't get involved in some legal problems over this line that we would have to draw in defining some portion of a parish, or we could open half of the state.

MR. WINFREE: You haven't quite answered my question.

DR. ST. AMANT: Last year the season was opened for ~~fifty~~-three or fifty-four days, Mr. Kerner is probably right. We felt that we fell within the statute when we gave them over fifty days.

MR. WINFREE: Do we have a limitation on the length of the season?

DR. ST. AMANT: It is sixty days. You can't go more than sixty days.

MR. WINFREE: And this Commission arbitrarily closed it at fifty-three days?

DR. ST. AMANT: No, we closed it on July 15th, which is the normal date to close in order to protect the white shrimp season.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, Dr. St. Amant, would you recommend that we run any season at all past



July 15th, regardless of the date of the opening of the season? Do you concur that we should at least stop it by then?

DR. ST. AMANT: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't agree with some of the shrimpers.

I respect their judgment, but I think they are looking only at their little area. I think they are 100 per cent -- I think Mr. Servin knows lower Terrebonne Parish very well, but I think we are looking at the entire state.

There are areas in the state where there are no shrimp whatsoever. You couldn't catch one if you trawled all day long.

We have the problem of trying to set an average season which takes care of most people and the most shrimp.

I think up to date we have done a fair job at it. There is the possibility that under a flexible law, we could attempt to have a split season; we could attempt to have partial seasons in some parishes. I have nothing against this except that it presents an enforcement problem. It gives us some



headaches and I don't agree that if we did do this, only the local people would get the benefit from it.

I think if we did open the season at this time of the year, you would have a great many more boats in a local area than it might be expected.

If the Commission desires to take this approach some time in the future, we could probably design a system whereby you would open a small area at a time and see what would happen.

It may be progressive to do that and it may be dangerous to your shrimp crop.

In the past we have presented the data to the shrimp industries and up until last year we had gotten some kind of compromise from these people. At least up until last year they had realized that we were doing the best we could for the most people. But suddenly we have a splitting of different units that want only interests in their area. Now, if they continue to do this, they will wreck the shrimp industry again like it was wrecked fifteen years ago. Now, it is up to them, it is their industry. All we can do is present the data.



I would suggest to the shrimp people that they get together and learn how to live together.

(Applause)

MR. WINFREE: Dr. St. Amant, one more question.

Does the law say we have to close by the 15th of July?

DR. ST. AMANT: No, sir. Under the new law, if we find an area that is suitable to fish, we can declare it fishable with adequate technical data and we can open after July 15th or August at any place where we think the crop is fishable.

MR. WINFREE: But prior to this, you had to close on the 15th.

DR. ST. AMANT: Yes, sir.

MR. WINFREE: That is the point I was trying to establish, for the fifty-three days -- because of the May 15th opening, we had to close the season by the 15th of July by statute, is that correct?

DR. ST. AMANT: That is correct.

MR. WINFREE: That is all I want to establish.



DR. ST. AMANT: Now one other point and this is a delicate point.

Because the law has a size limit on shrimp, the minute it closes, shrimp that were legal the day before might become illegal.

During the brown shrimp season, whenever we say it is, there is no size limit, but the minute this season closes on July 15th, you automatically go back to a 68 count. If you happen to have shrimp that is under 68-count size, and you can have that both white and brown, and you find a man that was perfectly legal in fishing one day but the next day he is technically illegal, then we can pick him up and sell his shrimp or do whatever.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kerner.

MR. KERNER: I would like to say one thing. You know that the season has been closed now since December 20th and you could take a trawl and go all the way from Lake Salvador to Grand Island and you couldn't catch a shrimp for medicine. You have to wait for the shrimps to come in. They come in from the sea.



All right. For the last three or four years we have been closing the season in July. Ask anybody in here today if they caught any white shrimp one week after the season is opened in July. Because of no shrimp being available, we tie up for two or three weeks. So if closing the season in July would help, there should be white shrimp in August. When we close the season, there is shrimp; when we open the season in August, there is no shrimp, so the trawling must help instead of hurt.

What I would like to say is this. I heard Dr. St. Amant say that we have selfish interests. Well, I want to let him know that I represent the fishermen from Cameron to Bellagrove Island, and those fishermen want sixty days throughout this area. They need sixty days in order to survive.

Now I know that when the season comes in July and it closes, there is a count on shrimp. Now, if the conservation tomorrow was to be strict on the law in October, November, and December, you can burn all the boats in Louisiana because the shrimps never made the count in November and December, and they



never did make the count on the inside waters of white shrimp, and they will never make the count. So any time you strict on 68 count in Louisiana, you can burn all the boats in October, November and December.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you don't believe what I am telling you, you can check the records. It has been that way since I am living and I am sure that our Lord is not going to change in 1970.

We have to have a law, ladies and gentlemen, where we have to raise this count in October, November, and December, to at least one hundred count, if we want to say within the law.

I know what they say in Texas -- I have been to all those meetings -- "We would make laws, but you wouldn't follow them in Louisiana." The reason why is because we don't have them right. We can make a living if we follow the laws in Louisiana. We have to change these laws because everybody has to live by laws. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody want to be



heard before we go back over again?

MR. FARRELLY: My name is James Farrelly and I represent the Louisiana Shrimp Association.

We represent members from the entire State of Louisiana which include New Orleans, Lafitte, Golden Meadow, Morgan City, Delcambre, Cameron, Grand Isle, and St. Bernard.

We have sent all the gentlemen on the Commission a letter stating our recommendations that were voted on at Grand Terre.

We would like to make a clarification here on why we picked the date that we did.

First of all, I would like to make clear what marketable size means to us. This means shrimp that is under 100 count. If any of you gentlemen have tried to boil and eat shrimp that are under 100 count, it is rather difficult because all you have is whiskers and heads. You have very little shrimp there.

There is a limitation on where this shrimp is marketable. It is limited to a particular market. You can't send it to the French Market, you



can't send to any of your seafood houses in the State of Louisiana, nor could you ship out of state to any of your big city markets like Chicago and New York.

Another thing we like to suggest is the dollar value. Dr. St. Amant has stated that seven per cent of shrimp on the 18th of May would be marketable. Keep in mind that this is again under 100 count. He said that possibly with the water temperatures this could go up one-third by the 18th of May. Now, we think that if you would keep this season closed to the 25th, you would get two-thirds. You would double what you have. Not only would you double the amount of shrimp, but you would triple the value of this shrimp.

Another thing we would like to point out is what industry do you know of, if they had a chance, would market one-third of their crop or wait another week and market two-thirds of their crop. I don't know of any industry that would do anything like this.

We are constantly concerned about conservation. In our meetings we talk about pollution



and we talk about conservation. What do you do if market a third of your crop. You bring in the shrimp -- you get fifty barrels, of shrimp, one-third you keep and the other two-thirds you dump overboard. Is this conservation! To us it doesn't make any sense at all.

Dr. St. Amant stated that this season is very similar to the 1969 season. In 1969, we had a record crop. This season was opened on the 25th of May, not the 15th, not the 18th, but the 25th. Dr. St. Amant also stated that the largest per cent of marketable shrimp will be on the 25th of May, not the 18th of May, but the 25th of May.

Because of these recommendations, the Louisiana Shrimp Association Board of Directors strongly recommends that the 25th of May should be the opening date. We would also recommend that this group here take steps to cure the shrimp law in order that it will not be declared unconstitutional, and the state and the industry will be left without a shrimp law.

I want to thank you again, gentlemen, and



we appreciate the work you are doing.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to question Mr. Farrelly.

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Farrelly, last year, this organization that you represent, the Louisiana Shrimp Association, if I recall correctly, -- didn't your organization rebut the figures of Dr. St. Amant and did not like his suggestion of a May 25th opening?

MR. FARRELLY: No, sir, you must be mistaken. Dr. St. Amant, I believe, suggested last year an opening date of May 5th and we were strongly against it. We felt that the figures showed that you should go to the 25th of May.

MR. WINFREE: Didn't we open the season on the 25th of May last year?

MR. FARRELLY: Yes, sir.

MR. WINFREE: Well, you see Dr. St. Amant also informed us that the 25th was a good date. That is the reason I ask this.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are getting into the late part of the morning. Is there anybody who wants



to be heard who hasn't been heard?

MR. SERVIN: Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, we are not going to make a second go-around because then you could go to a third. However, Mr. Servin, if you have something that will take only a minute or so, go ahead.

MR. SERVIN: Dr. St. Amant said a while ago that we have a lot of shrimp today. Yes, I agree with Dr. St. Amant when he said it was better than the last fifteen or twenty years. I remember when they had some seasons when they had more large white shrimp thrown overboard then they get processed today.

I can't see why Dr. St. Amant says that they have so much shrimp today.

The recommendations they have over there on the charts -- it is the amount of boats they have today. That is why you have the shrimp you have today. It is the amount of boats.

Just one other thing. If the season this year goes later than the 15th of May, people they going to have trouble; they won't be like sweet potato



pie like last year. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else that would like to be heard?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: If not, we will recess for ten minutes.

(Whereupon, a recess was taken at 11:15 o'clock a.m.)

...oOo...

(Whereupon, the Board Meeting resumed at 11:30 o'clock a.m.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The meeting will come to order.

Is there anyone else who has not been heard?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: I take it everyone has been heard.

Gentlemen, you have heard the discussion. What is your pleasure pertaining to establishing the



length of the brown shrimp season?

MR. GUIDRY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that the May season open on May 18th and go to Thursday, July 16th. That will give thirty days until the August season.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion, is there a second?

MR. NORRIS: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Guidry and seconded by Mr. Norris.

MR. WINFREE: Is that a full sixty days now?

MR. GUIDRY: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Will all those in favor, please raise their hands.

(Whereupon, a hand vote was taken with a determinate result.)

THE CHAIRMAN: It is so ordered.



Before we go to Item number seven, I want to say to those of you who appeared on this brown-shrimp season-date discussion that we just had that the Commission appreciates the interest that you have and to thank you in helping us make this decision.

We are going to ask your help, too, because this is a tremendous job on the part of our enforcement people -- to enforce the shrimp laws.

This is being done for the benefit of your industry, so any help that you can give them will be appreciated. Thank you.

R E S O L U T I O N

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1970 Spring Shrimp Season to open on Monday, May 18, 1970, at 12:01 a.m. and to continue until mid-night, on Thursday, July 16, 1970.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that



the Director be instructed to assign every available enforcement agent, boat, and airplane to patrol the coastal areas.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, earlier in the day we had that discussion on Interstate 410 -- the right-of-way of I-410.

I see this young lady in the audience who represents the Sierra Club. She was not present at the time we had this discussion, and I was wondering if we could extend to her the courtesy of allowing her now to make her presentation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Most certainly, Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: Before she makes her presentation, would you apprise her of the action of this Commission.

M. STOCKS: I have a copy of the resolution, Mr. Winfree, but I would like to make my statement.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are more than welcome to make your statement, Miss Stocks.



M. STOCKS: My name is Miss Claire Stocks, and I am a representative of the local Sierra Club.

The Louisiana Group of the Sierra Club is vitally concerned with the proposed routing of Interstate Highway 410 through the Salvador Wildlife Management Area.

The Sierra Club wishes to go on record opposing this highway project which will cut through both public and private marshland.

Experience has borne out time and again that when a major traffic artery is built in an area such as this, the urge to drain follows. Instead of essential wildlife management acreages being left intact, adjacent areas are opened up for commercial ventures of all kinds, endangering the natural habitat of plant and animal life.

The growth of suburban populations and the increasing use of waste materials for land fill presently endangers hundreds of acres of Louisiana marshland.

Marshlands must be obtained for wildlife



management areas in order that essential ecological balances be maintained.

For these reasons, the Sierra Club urges that the proposed route of Interstate Highway 410 be relocated nearer Highway 90 and closer to residential areas. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Miss Stocks.

The next item on the agenda will be presented by Dr. Ford.

DR. FORD: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

I am in receipt of a request from the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council dated April 2, 1970, to open the siphons immediately while the river is at its higher stages at lower Belair, also known as White Ditch, on the east bank of Mississippi River, Plaquemines Parish, which would require action of our Commission to close the affected area as a conservation measure with broad supervision and sampling being performed by the State Board of Health.

This action has been taken annually over the last several years and has been helpful to the



marshes for oyster, waterfowl, and furbearers in diminishing salt water intrusion.

We have cooperated and worked very closely with parish officials in these matters.

The Council has obligated itself to do the following:

1. to mark the affected area.
2. to obtain consent for closure of the area from the affected oyster bottom lessees.
3. to maintain a boat and helicopter patrol to enforce the prohibition of no oyster fishing until the area is clear as determined by the State Board of Health.

The State Board of Health has obligated itself to check the area.

It is a conservation area measure. Its purpose is to introduce river water and to try to depress the increased salinities.

I have the following resolved part of a resolution that I would like to suggest for your consideration and adoption.



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission at its reg-
ular monthly meeting on Tuesday,
April 28, 1970, does hereby tem-
porarily close the oyster fishing
area located between the east
bank of the Mississippi River
and 89° 46' Longitude West and
south of 29° 45', all in the
vicinity of lower Belair, White
Ditch, in Plaquemines Parish,
during higher river stages for
the purposes of introducing fresh
water into this oyster-growing
area until such time as the State
Board of Health approves reopening
the area for oyster fishing in
1970. Such action being con-
tingent upon the Plaquemines
Parish Commission Council meeting
its responsibilities as included



above in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be referred immediately to the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, the State Board of Health and the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association.

DR. FORD: In view of the needs and obligations assumed by the Plaquemins Parish Commission Council and the cooperation and assistance offered by the State Board of Health, I am pleased to recommend its approval and the adoption of the resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. KYLE: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GUIDRY: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Kyle and seconded by Mr. Guidry.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?



(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, salt water intrusion in marshes that are oyster seed, waterfowl, and furbearer-producing has resulted in increased snail predation with a reduced seed oyster production and decreased usage by other wildlife resources, and

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines parish Commission Council has obligated itself to do the following:

1. to mark the affected area to be closed, namely that area lying west of the 89° 46' Longitude West and south of 29° 45', all east of the Mississippi River



in Plaquemines Parish, with signs at least 24" square reading "No Oyster Fishing Until Notified.. Area West Closed. Boat-Air Patrol, Syphons Running."

2. to obtain the consent for closure of the area from the affected oyster bottom lessees.
3. to maintain a boat and helicopter patrol to enforce the prohibition of no oyster fishing until the area is clear as determined by the State Board of Health, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has received a request from the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council dated April 2, 1970, to begin operating the lower Belair (White Ditch) siphons immediately, and

WHEREAS, the State Board of



Health through Mr. Jim Coerver, Head, Engineering Division, has advised Dr. Ted Ford, Chief, Oyster Division, of their approval in accordance with the above guidelines and that they will perform the necessary sampling after cessation of discharge to determine that the area is clear for reopening, approximately fourteen (14) to twenty (20) days later. Now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 1970, does hereby temporarily close the oyster fishing area located between the east bank of the Mississippi River and $89^{\circ} 46'$ Longitude West and south of $29^{\circ} 45'$, all in the



vicinity of lower Belair, White Ditch, in Plaquemines Parish, during higher river stages for the purposes of introducing fresh water into this oyster-growing area until such time as the State Board of Health approves reopening the area for oyster fishing in 1970.

Such action being contingent upon the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council meeting its responsibilities as included in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be referred immediately to the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, the State Board of Health and the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association.



THE CHAIRMAN: Number eight, Dr. Ford.

DR. FORD: The second area which the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council has just completed for the benefit of the oyster industry is further down river.

We show it on the map as the Lower Pointe-a-la-Hache area.

They have installed four, sixty-inch siphons and the top of the siphons are set at a minus 1-1/2 mean sea level. The purpose is to be able to get good Gravity flow and maximum utilization of fresh water to depress the increased salinities in that particular area.

I am in receipt of a request from the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council to immediately open the gates of a newly completed structure to be known as the Lower Pointe-a-la-Hache structure while higher river stages are available.

It is for the purpose of reducing the effects of saltwater intrusion and snail predation in that area, thereby benefiting the oysters.



We assisted and cooperated with parish officials in the planning stages and propose to continue our hydrographic studies in the area.

In order to operate this unit it will be necessary for our Commission to close the area to oyster fishing as a conservation measure. Also, the State Board of Health will have to exercise broad supervision over the closure and perform the necessary sampling before it can be reopened.

The Plaquemines Parish Commission Council has obligated itself to do the following:

1. to mark the affected area.
2. to obtain consent for closure of the area from the affected oyster bottom lessees.
3. to maintain a boat and helicopter patrol to enforce the prohibition of no oyster fishing until the area is clear as determined by the State Board of Health.

It is a conservation measure again of this Commission to close the area to oyster fishing during the time that the structure is in operation, and thereafter for a period of some fourteen to twenty



days while the area clears itself, all in accordance with the broad supervision and sampling procedures followed by the State Board of Health.

I have the following resolved portion of a resolution to offer for your consideration and adoption.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission at its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 1970, does hereby temporarily close the oyster-fishing area east of the Mississippi River described as follows.

Beginning at the intersection with the Mississippi River of a line dividing Lots #7 and #8 Township #18 South, Range 16 East, extending to the 40 arpent line; thence due north to the north shore line of Long Bay; thence northwesterly along the



north shore line of Long Bay,
including all of Long Bay and
continuing on a line which divides
Long Bay and American Bay from
Bay Crabba to the southerly edge
of Triple Pass; thence continu-
ing along the east and northeast
and north side of American Bay
and along the north side of Battle
Ground Bay to the north side of
Big Four Bayou; thence along the
north side of Big Four Bayou to
the north side of Third Bay to
the middle of Second Bay (which
is 89° 46' Longitude West);
thence due south to the Mississippi
River; thence downriver to the
point of beginning, all as shown
on plat of Louisiana Wild Life
and Fisheries Commission prepared
by its Oyster Division dated
April 16, 1970, and copy of which



is on file with the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and in the office of the Secretary of the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council -- for the purpose of introducing fresh water into this oyster-growing area until such time as the State Board of Health approves reopening the area for oyster fishing in 1970, such action being contingent upon the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council meeting its responsibilities as included above in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be referred immediately to the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, the State Board of Health and the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association.



In views of the needs and obligations by the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council and the cooperation and assistance offered by the State Board of Health, I am pleased to recommend its approval and the adoption of the attached resolution providing for its operation.

This is our recommendation, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NORRIS: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Norris.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

MR. WINFREE: Just a question, Mr. Chairman, of Dr. Ford.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: Dr. Ford.

DR. FORD: Yes, sir.

MR. WINFREE: These are grounds owned



by the State of Louisiana. Oyster fishermen can go in there and pick up these seed oysters, and then take them across the river and plant them in their own beds. Is that what these beds are for?

DR. FORD: These are areas where there are private leases. We hope the water gets into what we refer to as the natural seed ground areas.

It is open and available to the oyster fishermen to pick up seed oysters. There are private leases, but during this time there can be no fishing of oysters.

MR. WINFREE: No fishing?

DR. FORD: Yes, sir, and this is why there will be helicopter and boat patrol throughout the area.

We have had excellent cooperation from the fishermen because they recognize the value associated with it and they also recognize the health aspects of it. This is why the State Board of Health exercises broad supervision and follows a sampling procedure to determine that the area is clear and that the oysters can be harvested.



MR. WINFREE: Thank you, Dr. Ford.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, increasing salt water intrusion in oyster-producing areas has increased predation of oysters by snails and has reduced the successful setting of seed oyster, and

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council has constructed a facility known as the lower Point-a-la-Hache structure for the purpose of introducing fresh water from the Mississippi River into the marshes of this area for the purpose of aiding the oyster fishermen with planning assistance from the Oyster Division, and

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council has



obligated itself to do the following:

1. to mark the affected area with signs at least 24" square reading "No Oyster Fishing Until Notified. Area West Closed. Boat-Air Patrol, Syphons Running";
2. to obtain consent for closure of the area from the affected oyster bottom lessees;
3. to maintain a boat and helicopter patrol to enforce the prohibition of no oyster fishing until the area is clear as determined by the State Board of Health and,

WHEREAS, the Commission has received a request from the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council dated April 16, 1970, to begin operating the lower Pointe-a-la-Hache Facility



immediately while higher river stages are available, and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Health through Mr. Jim Coerver, Head, Engineering Division, has advised Dr. Ted Ford, Chief, Oyster Division, of their approval in accordance with the above guidelines and that they will perform the necessary sampling after cessation of discharge to determine that the area is clear for reopening, approximately fourteen (14) to twenty (20) days later, Now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 1970, does hereby temporarily close the oyster fishing area east of the Mississippi



River described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection with the Mississippi River of a line dividing Lots #7 and #8, Township #18 South, Range 16 East, extending to the 40 arpent line; thence due north to the north shore line of Long Bay; thence northwesterly along the north shore line of Long Bay, including all of Long Bay and continuing on a line which divides Long Bay and American Bay from Bay Crabba to the southerly edge of Triple Pass; thence continuing along the east and northeast and north side of American Bay and along the north side of Battle Ground Bay to the north side of Big Four Bayou; thence along the north side of Big Four Bayou to the north side



of Third Bay to the middle of Second Bay (which is $89^{\circ} 46'$ Longitude West); thence due south to the Mississippi River; thence downriver to the point of beginning, all as shown on plat of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission prepared by its Oyster Division dated April 16, 1970, and copy of which is on file with the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and in the office of the Secretary of the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council -- for the purpose of introducing fresh water into this oyster-growing area until such time as the State Board of Health approves reopening the area for oyster fishing in 1970, and such action being contingent upon the Plaquemines Parish Commission



Council meeting its responsibilities as included in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be referred immediately to the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, the State Board of Health and the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association.

THE CHAIRMAN: Number nine, Dr. Ford.

DR. FORD: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

This is a proposed revision of Sister Lake Oyster Management Program.

Approximately ten years ago the Commission adopted a management plan for the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Ground Reservation which provided that it be opened on an alternate-year basis.

We have determined that the amount of cultch for catching seed oysters has been reduced



during this time and that the number of seed oysters is low.

Part of this is due to the hydrography of the area because we have salt water intrusion even there.

During some years we get favorable water conditions. So the seed production has been running approximately fifty to sixty thousand barrels every other year. Before that, it had gotten down to a level of about five thousand barrels a year.

We feel that the management plan that has been in effect -- this was recommended originally by Dr. St. Amant and adopted by this Commission -- has been a good one! But, nevertheless, in our continuing studies of the area we have determined that the seed production for this coming year, which would normally start on September 1, 1970, is low, and that the cultch material is relatively low.

Accordingly, we propose an experimental shell-planting effort in that area during late May or June of this year to evaluate the possibilities of increasing the yield of seed oysters.



I have the following resolution for your consideration and adoption.

WHEREAS, the available cultch for catching seed oysters in the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Ground Reservation has become greatly reduced, and

WHEREAS, the management plan provides that it be opened for fishing seed oysters on alternating years and it is scheduled to open September 1, 1970, and

WHEREAS, the Commission proposed to make an experimental shell-planting in Sister Lake in late May or June of this year,
Now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
by the Louisian Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 1970,



that the opening of the scheduled seed oyster season be deferred until September 1, 1971, and that it shall be opened thereafter on an alternating-year basis in accordance with the previously established and adopted management plan.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. GUIDRY: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. KYLE: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Guidry and seconded by Mr. Kyle.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

MR. BUQUET: Mr. Chairman, may I say something?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Buquet.

MR. BUQUET: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:



My name is A. J. Buquet. I was in great hopes that Dr. St. Amant would be present at this time, but I see that he has left the room.

I would appreciate it if you would not include in your minutes of this meeting my remarks and that the press please do not quote me.

(Discussion followed off the record.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: We have had a motion and it has been seconded.

Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the available cultch for catching seed oysters in Sister Lake Oyster Seed Ground Reservation has become greatly reduced and



WHEREAS, the management plan provides that it be opened for fishing seed oysters on alternating years and it is scheduled to open September 1, 1970, and

WHEREAS, the Commission proposed to make an experimental-shell planting in Sister Lake in late May or June of this year, Now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 1970, that the opening of the scheduled seed oyster season be deferred until September 1, 1971, and that it shall be opened thereafter on an alternating-year basis in accordance with the previously-established and adopted management plan.



THE CHAIRMAN: Number ten, Dr. Ford.

DR. FORD: Our last item, gentlemen, is the 1970 Shell Planting Program.

We have requested the Division of Administration to advertise for bids for planting approximately 72,000 cubic yards of clam shells as cultch to catch seed oysters at five locations, four east of the Mississippi River and the other in Sister Lake. Bids should be opened May 8, 1970.

Because of this being an off-period and because of the fact that we would like to get underway during the spat fall period, I recommend that this be discussed with the Commission and that the Director be authorized to award the contract to the lowest acceptable bidder in order to begin planting shells immediately thereafter so that the job can be completed before the late-spring spawning season is over.

I have the following resolution for your consideration and adoption.

WHEREAS, the planting of shells as oyster cultch for catching seed oysters is an accepted



management practice, and

WHEREAS, bids are being solicited on May 8, 1970, for the planting of approximately 72,000 cubic yards and it is extremely desirable to plant these shells between mid-May and late June, Now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 1970, that it does hereby authorize and direct its Director, Clark M. Hoffpauer, to award the contract to the lowest acceptable bidder and execute any and all documents pursuant thereto.

DR. FORD: This is my recommendation to the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?



MR. NORRIS: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. KYLE: I second the motion, Mr.
Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Norris and
seconded by Mr. Kyle.

Is there any further discussion? Is
there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so
ordered.

Thank you, Dr. Ford.

DR. FORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
gentlemen of the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will recognize
Mr. Charles Bosch.

MR. BOSCH: My name is Charlie Bosch,
and I am Executive Director of the Louisiana Wildlife
Federation.

We would like to request that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission cooperate
with the Florida Game and Fisheries Commission in an
attempt to import some of these huge-size Florida



bass. They have been imported into some other state successfully.

There are many unanswered questions about these species. But we do know that they grow to sixteen, eighteen pounds in the State of Florida.

We do know that the State of Florida is growing by leaps and bounds and that they are destroying much of the habitat of this particular race of large bass.

We think it would be most desirable for the State of Louisiana to attempt to bring some of these Florida bass into Louisiana and to see if we can't propagate them.

Our sportsmen love to catch these eight-pound ones. Imagine how they would feel if they tackled one that weighed seventeen or eighteen pounds!

THE CHAIRMAN: We need a motion directing the Director to do this.

MR. GUIDRY: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WRIGHT: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Guidry and



seconded by Mr. Wright.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission undertake
the necessary steps in stocking
of Louisiana Lakes with the
Florida Bass (*Micropterus*
salmoides fliordans).

THE CHAIRMAN: The next items on the agenda will be presented by Mr. Joe Herring.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

The first item on the agenda for your consideration today is from the Bienville Parish



Kepler Lake Fish and Game Commission.

It is requesting approval of rules and regulations adopted by that body at a meeting held on April 8, 1970.

These regulations pertain to boating, fishing, the operation of vehicles on their levees, and hunting.

I would like to say that we have some thirty-three of these commissions in the state, and before they can carry out their regulations, they have to be passed through this Commission for approval.

Their main concern on Kepler Lake is water-skiing in certain areas, the location of duck lines, and commercial fishing by permit only.

I would like to recommend to the Commission that we go ahead and accept this body's rules and regulations with the one stipulation that we be responsible only for the enforcement of existing state laws.

Any rules and regulations set up by the Kepler Lake Game and Fish Commission will have to be



enforced by that body and the local enforcement people.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Joe, why do we have to enter into an agreement with these people at all?

MR. HERRING: By state law, in all the state game and fish commissions that are set up throughout the state, they have to send all their rules and regulations through this Commission here for approval.

MR. WINFREE: Well, why couldn't we just acquiesce in the action of that commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think that is what Mr. Herring is doing.

MR. WINFREE: No, I think he is adding something to their resolution. I think he is adding that this Commission will enforce the state laws -- well, that goes without saying.

MR. HERRING: No, Mr. Winfree, I just wanted to make it clear that as usual we will only enforce the state laws. Any rules and regulations outside of existing laws, they will be responsible for.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Mr. Winfree, they have



regulations in there -- you can't have a duck line more than 220 yards from another duck line, 220 yards from the bank and 20 feet off a boat road, and so forth. That is their problem.

MR. WINFREE: I agree that it is their problem. We don't want any more lake commissions to take over.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Winfree, perhaps I have not made myself clear. We don't even like the one we have -- that lake-commission situation. We do not want to take over any of these commissions.

MR. WINFREE: I think this Commission might just say that we approve their plan, period! I don't think we ought to sign anything that makes you part owner, you know.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, if we emphasize that we are not going to enforce their regulations --

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I would think that all that's needed is just a cover letter of transmittal submitting their resolution back to them saying, "We think you have a good idea, success to you."

(Laughter)



THE CHAIRMAN: Would you put that in the form of a motion.

MR. WINFREE: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. KYLE: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Winfree and seconded by Mr. Kyle.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so ordered.

MR. HERRING: The second item on the agenda concerns the renewal of the Caldwell Parish Wildlife Management Area lease agreement.

This is a lease agreement with Bodcaw Company for renewal of the 12,123.43 acres of land for Caldwell Parish Wildlife Management Area which has been received.

This agreement is the same as past agreements with the exception of the length of time. The new lease is for a three-year period.



This area has produced some excellent hunting for the people of Caldwell and northeast Louisiana, as well as for other parts of the State.

I recommend that we accept this lease for the continuation of the Caldwell Parish Wildlife Management Area.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. KYLE: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NORRIS: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Kyle and seconded by Mr. Norris.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so ordered.



MR. HERRING: The next item on the agenda for discussion today pertains to a land exchange on our Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. James Benton of Monroe, Louisiana, has contacted Mr. Clifford T. Williams, Supervisor, District II, several times in regard to an acre for acre land trade for 160 acres he owns within Russell Sage for 160 acres of Commission property.

The 160 acres of Mr. Benton's is described as the Southeast 1/4 of Section 26, Township 18 North, Range 5 East. Mr. Benton would trade for 160 acres in one of two sections. The first is Northwest 1/4 of Section 26, Township 18 North, Range 5 East, and the other is Southwest 1/4 of Section 14, Township 18 North, Range 5 East.

Mr. Williams recommends that the Commission exchange for the 160 acres described as the Southwest 1/4 of Section 14, Township 18 North, Range 5 East. The primary reason is due to its location. The quarter section in Section 25 is more valuable moneywise and it better fits into our game and timber management program.



If Mr. Benton came out with the portion in Section 26, he may want to put a drainage ditch across Commission lands.

The land exchange for either portion would be beneficial to the Commission since it would leave only 80 acres of private land within Russell Sage, if Mr. Norris donates 80 acres to the area. It would also relieve certain drainage problems facing us. If Mr. Benton keeps his 160 acres, plans are made to drain it. This means a ditch across Commission property.

This land exchange would be similar to the one with Union Producing Company, but would be more simple to carry out.

I would like to request that the Commission approve this land exchange and that a bill be introduced in the next session of the Legislature for approval of such an exchange.

It is recommended for the Commission to carry out this land trade.

THE CHAIRMAN: As I understand it, we are asking for legislation to be introduced for this



land exchange.

MR. HERRING: Yes, sir, a bill will have to be introduced.

MR. NORRIS: Mr. Chairman, it has not been made clear to me where exactly this land is.

(Whereupon, Mr. Herring indicates on a map where the land is.)

MR NORRIS: Mr. Chairman, I so move.

MR. WRIGHT: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Wright.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so ordered.

MR. HERRING: The next item on the agenda for discussion today pertains to the acceptance of Proposal 2005, which is a residence and shop building on our Badcau Wildlife Management Area, in Bossier Parish.



Personnel of the Fish & Game Division have checked the Headquarters facilities which include one residence, one work shop and one pump house, and have found that the contractor has completed the work to all specifications.

I recommend that the Louisiana State Division of Administration be notified and that the contractor, Howard Lumber Company, Box 918, Minden, Louisiana, be placed in line for final payment.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. KYLE: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GUIDRY: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Kyle and seconded by Mr. Guidry.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so ordered.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next



item on the agenda is the opening of the Spring Bayou for commercial fishing.

I would like to recommend the following:

1. that it be open for three days of each week, from midnight on Sunday night to midnight on Wednesday night of each week;
2. that the commercial fishermen who desire to fish this area will apply and receive the permits at the Headquarters building there;
3. that a written report of the catch at the end of each month be given to the personnel in charge at the Spring Bayou Headquarters;
4. there will be no commercial fishing at night and the equipment used will be the same as that which is legal for outside waters. This will pertain to the size of the fish, also;
5. that all gear and tackle will be removed by Wednesday night of each week.

I have some figures from last winter's catch. There were 71,398 fish caught with the total value of \$7,745.00.

We have received some comments from the



commercial fishermen in the area that since we have taken over the control of this area, the area for commercial fishing at least has improved.

The fish caught in this area included buffalo, catfish, carp, carr, bofin, and drum. In making this catch, there were 176 fishing efforts. This was from January 1st to March 1st.

I would like to recommend to the Commission that at this time we go ahead and open this area for commercial fishing on a permit basis.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Joe, there will be no limit to the amount of fish you can catch.

MR. HERRING: That's right.

MR. WRIGHT: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GUIDRY: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Guidry.

Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, it is so



ordered.

Thank you, Joe.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business to come before the Commission this morning?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a motion for adjournment?

MR. NORRIS: I so move that we adjourn the meeting.

MR. WRIGHT: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Wright. The meeting is adjourned.

...oOo...

. . . Thereupon, the Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was adjourned at 12:15 o'clock p.m., on Tuesday, April 28, 1970....



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the stenographic (Stenotype) notes of the proceedings herein, taken down by me and transcribed under my supervision, at the time and place hereinbefore noted, in the above-entitled and -numbered cause (s).

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, this 2ND
day of June, 1969 / 1970

Arthur W. Bilal
REPORTER